

and committed to the rule of law, Taiwan is a model for emerging democracies in the region and throughout the world. It is a vibrant reminder that freedom is a universal ideal.

We rightly consider any effort to hinder Taiwan's self-determination as a threat to regional peace. The United States must continue to stand behind our commitment to Taiwan and the military and trading partnerships we enjoy with this major regional economy. We must also support Taiwan's strong desire for much-deserved membership in the United Nations.

Mr. Speaker, we are grateful for dependable allies like Taiwan. The relationship between our two nations has been to the cultural, economic, and political benefit of both. We send our greetings and best wishes to the people of Taiwan as they mark their centennial next week.

ADMONISHING ANTI-DEMOCRATIC STATEMENTS

HON. STEVAN PEARCE

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 4, 2011

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, at a constituent event in Inglewood, California, on August 21, 2011, the Congresswoman who represents that area made several shocking and egregious statements that slander the good work a dedicated group of Americans are trying to achieve for our country. Perhaps most disturbing was her statement that, "As far as I'm concerned the Tea Party can go straight to hell. And . . . and, I intend to help them get there." These words do nothing to unite Americans and only fan the flames that incite division. Earlier in August, following the highly charged debt limit discussions, with words worsening the political divide, the Vice President declared that the Tea Party had "acted like terrorists." These attacks are an assault on democracy. Any action which ignores deep-seated concerns, or attempts to extinguish the voices of millions of Americans damages the democratic process. The Tea Party is united in common concern for the future and the well-being of generations to come. They are not, as one Congressman from Pennsylvania described, a "small group of terrorists." These are people who care deeply about the path our country is on and are working through the issues. They are present at parades, marches and rallies. They are gathering in meeting halls, restaurants, and family rooms to discuss their goals for our nation's future. Words that dismiss the Tea Party's shared belief that government can do better by the people of this country only further divide us. We have only our voices to change the hearts and minds of elected officials. Those of us entrusted by the people to support and defend the Constitution of the United States must never work to extinguish the light of democracy or the avenue of free speech. To limit the excitement and drive of a united group grows dejection; a certain foe of democracy. It casts a web of doubt over the activities of the Congress and threatens to harm the creation of good public policy. I will defend the right of any man, woman, or child to speak their truth and share their concerns. Just as all Americans regardless of race or gender, creed

or religion, ideals or personal conviction, Tea Party members deserve to have their voices heard.

RECOGNIZING ELSA HOMINDA OF THE CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON FOR HER WORK WITH ADOPTED CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN WASHINGTON STATE

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 4, 2011

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor my constituent, Elsa Hominda, for her outstanding advocacy for adopted children in Washington State and for being a 2011 Angels in Adoption honoree. I am pleased to join Senator PATTY MURRAY in recognizing Elsa's dedicated work with local adoptees, their families, and birth parents.

Elsa is a Search and Reunion Specialist at the Children's Home Society of Washington, a non-profit organization devoted to strengthening and supporting Washington's children and families. Elsa and her husband are also the proud parents of three adopted children, ages 5, 11, and 12.

As a confidential intermediary at the Children's Home Society of Washington, Elsa acts as a neutral third-party to facilitate reunions between adoptees and birth parents. She serves as a counselor and mediator to the child or parent who is undertaking a search and helps to make what is often a very emotional and difficult process just a bit easier.

Through her work, she has helped many individuals. One personal story that I found particularly moving involved a gentleman who was placed in an adoptive home over 50 years ago and who recently embarked on the poignant journey to find his birth mother.

With the help of Ms. Hominda, this individual was able to reunite with his biological mother through a series of letters, emails, and eventually, a face-to-face reunion—a process that took several months. He is incredibly grateful for all the hard work Elsa did to facilitate the reunion and feels as though he has a new addition to his family.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House of Representatives please join me in honoring Elsa Hominda, whose work reuniting Washington's adopted children with their birth families enriches the lives of everyone touched by the process of adoption.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WILLIAM G. ROHRER MEMORIAL LIBRARY

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 4, 2011

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the fiftieth anniversary of the William G. Rohrer Memorial Library in Haddon Township. For the past half century this valuable community asset has steadfastly served the citizens of Haddon Township. This past summer, the library was forced to temporarily close after

suffering damage from an unfortunate water main break. Undeterred, library staff worked diligently to reopen as soon as possible. Reflecting the great value and importance of this library, community members lined up at the door for the reopening of their cherished and loved library.

The staff of the William G. Rohrer Memorial Library also deserves particular recognition. It is through their hard work that this library has come to be so cherished by the people of Haddon Township. Their efforts have made the library a great success over the past fifty years and will continue to earn the support and admiration of the community for many more to come. To celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the library, local leaders, entertainers, and citizens came together to mark this important milestone with a day of reading, fun, and games.

Mr. Speaker, the fiftieth anniversary of the William G. Rohrer Memorial Library and the dedication demonstrated by its staff should not go unrecognized. I congratulate them on fifty great years, thank them for their service to the community, and wish them all the success in the future.

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM "WHERE IS THE PEACE DIVIDEND? EXAMINING THE FINAL REPORT TO CONGRESS OF THE COMMISSION ON WARTIME CONTRACTING"

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 4, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the committee for holding this important hearing on the future of our presence in Iraq and Afghanistan.

As one of the first Members of Congress to oppose the war in Iraq and as one who has forced debate on the war in Afghanistan a number of times in the House, I continue to be deeply concerned by the findings of the Commission on Wartime Contracting (CWC) in Iraq and Afghanistan. The latest and final report highlights continued privatization of inherently governmental functions, a significant lack of oversight of contingency contractors who in many cases, are providing vital support services for our personnel on the ground, and an estimated waste of up to \$60 billion thus far. Many of us were on this committee last year when it released a report ("Warlord Inc.") detailing the use of U.S. taxpayer dollars to pay off warlords in Afghanistan and essentially fuel the very insurgency we are trying to quell.

At a time when vital social services here at home are being cut in the name of fiscal responsibility, we would do well to take the recommendations and findings included in the final report of the CWC very seriously. It is clear from the Commission's reports that the U.S. Government has privatized the business of war to such a point where we are guaranteed to continue to see billions of dollars go unaccounted for and bad actors in Iraq and Afghanistan act with total impunity. And as the Commission points out, there will be another contingency operation.

The truth is that we cannot afford these wars. According to Congressional Research